

BETHESDA-ROSEVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH
95 North 5th Street, Newark, N.J.
Rev. Donald H. Moesser, Pastor
April 3, 1968

Gentlemen, I deeply appreciate this opportunity of addressing my Municipal Council with a plea for community co-operation to "Save Our City."

As one who has tried to do his share in alerting the general public about the serious threat to law and order which white extremist groups pose for our city, I want to propose the creation of a new community coalition to "Save Our City" and insure racial harmony in Newark.

I have attended numerous community meetings, such as the recent one held by the Human Rights Commission at Broadway Junior High School auditorium, and the conference last week-end co-sponsored by the city and the United Community Corporation. I believe there is "yet time" to save our city if men of conscience, goodwill and faith rally together to face realistically the dilemma in which we find our city. Moreover, I think we cannot dismiss recent verbal statements of unity from such men as Willie Wright and Anthony Imperiale if we are to prevent true racial conflict in Newark. Therefore, I wish to propose that you join me in asking Mayor Hugh J. Addonizio to convene a special meeting, at the earliest convenience, to include at least the following individuals: the co-chairmen of the Committee of Concern; the chairman of the United Afro-American Association; the chairman of the Loyal Americans for Law and Order; the chairman of the Greater Newark Chamber of Commerce; the chairman of the United Community Corporation; the chairman of the North Ward Citizen's Committee; the clergy from the three faith groups; as well as the Human Rights Commissioners and their staff in order to tackle ways of maintaining law and order with justice in Newark.

It is my firm conviction that there are several areas of potential co-operation for this new coalition to "Save Our City:"

1) Joint preparation of rules of conduct for spectators attending City Council meetings so that dignity, decorum, respect and order may prevail rather than the hooliganism that has tended to prevail in these hallowed chambers.

2) Joint strategy for securing funds to: improve community relations training for policemen; intensify minority group recruitment programs for the police; and, improve the salary of the Newark Police Department.

3) Joint strategy with the Police Director to review ways of applying adequate force if disorder should occur which will restore order without inflaming passions in either the black or white community.

4) Joint agreement to eliminate "name calling" in the press, public meetings, and printed materials prepared by all of the individuals and organizations represented on this committee to "Save Our City."

5) Joint strategy for reducing conditions for potential incitement by any individual or organization by an irrevocable pledge to maintain open communication with one another, with the Mayor's Office, and with the press so that hasty action based on "rumor" may be curbed.

Gentlemen, these suggestions have not been meant to be exclusive in the extent of involvement of concerned organizations nor exhaustive in the extent of areas of common co-operation, but I hope that you will join with me in seeing this as a viable and realistic approach for immediate constructive action by responsible community leaders to come together to resolve a serious problem and save our city.

Respectfully submitted

Rev. Donald H. Moeser

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